

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	USSR (Kazakh SSR)	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Construction, Activities, and Conditions at "Location X"	DATE DISTR.	30 October 1953
	25X1	NO. OF PAGES	5 25X1
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	

25X1₁. [redacted] the 52nd
25X1 Separate Military Construction Battalion (Otdelnyy Voyenny Stroitelnyy
25X1 Batalon)

25X1 [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]

2. [redacted] arrived at Semipalatinsk [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] For the following four days this unit was quar-
25X1 tered in Semipalatinsk awaiting further orders. Semipalatinsk was a disease
25X1 ridden town and the troops were not allowed outside their compound. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] the unit was loaded aboard a river steamer at Semi-
25X1 palatinsk. The ship was very crowded with 1800 soldiers aboard. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] the ship departed going west on the Irtysh River. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] the next day the troops were unloaded at an unknown point on the west-
25X1 ern bank of the Irtysh River. There was a two- or three-story brick build-
25X1 ing at that point. A short distance from this point was the camp of a
25X1 battalion of Georgian soldiers who were engaged in unloading construction
material which was shipped from Semipalatinsk for the construction of the
installation at "Location X".

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STATE	x	ARMY Ev	x	NAVY	x	AIR	x	FBI		AEC		ORR Ev	x		
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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25X1 [] no railroad tracks on either side of the river. However, there was an embankment running parallel with the eastern shore line of the river which may have been meant for use as a the bed of a railroad track. At that time there were no ties or rails set upon the embankment.

25X1 3. [] trucks carried the men away from this point. They drove along a desert dirt road which had been made by the wheels of previous vehicular traffic. The soil was somewhat sandy although hard enough so that there was no difficulty in driving the trucks over it.

25X1 Nothing was in sight except desert waste. []

25X1 [] the convoy stopped at a place where a tent was standing. There were no other buildings in sight. This place was "Location X". (See location sketch on page 4.)

4. The following units made up the camp at "Location X":

- a. 52nd Separate Military Construction Battalion, composed of Russian and Armenian troops.
- b. 53rd Separate Military Construction Battalion, composed of Armenian and Azerbaydzhan troops.
- c. 52nd Separate Military Construction Regiment, composed of Russian and Armenian troops.
- d. 53rd Separate Military Construction Regiment, composed of Moldavian troops.
- 25X1 e. An officer group (Ofitserkiy Sostav - U.V.P.S.). The meaning of the abbreviation is unknown []

5. The following day the troops of the above named units were taken to various points within the area of "Location X" and, having been issued tools, were ordered to dig. In the beginning, each unit dug deep sites which were then reinforced with steel and concrete. All of these installations were constructed underground and could not be distinguished from above. When each unit completed its underground installation it was used for living quarters. After that some of the troops were assigned to dig a large ditch which proved to be meant for a large pipe. This ditch ran to the east as far as the eye could see. Other troops began digging a huge underground area farther south from the other installations. The area was one kilometer square and approximately eight to ten meters deep. One side of this installation was completely open and a sort of gradual ramp led to the ground above. The above installations were connected with each other by a net of subterranean passages. All of the above installations were built underground and were constructed with reinforced concrete and steel. (See sketch on page 5 for the approximate disposition of the installations.)

6. Several weeks after the arrival of the troops to "Location X" a barbed wire fence was strung all around the area. Soldiers with red shoulder boards patrolled around it day and night with dogs. The troops within felt more like prisoners than soldiers. After a while troops began talking of escape and one day 12 men who had been sent to collect brush for fire, completely disappeared. One soldier shot himself in the leg and as a result was court-martialed and sentenced to seven years at hard labor. The climate had great extremes; in summer it was very hot and in winter it was bitter cold. Many men contracted malaria from mosquito bites and in winter there were many cases of frozen limbs and lung diseases which took the lives of many men.

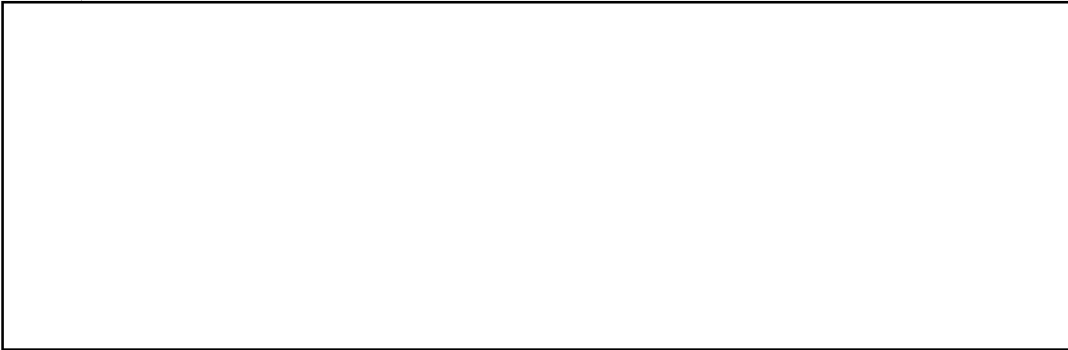
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- 25X1 7. The men slept on the ground, two soldiers sharing one mattress and one
 25X1 blanket between them. A daily ration of food consisted of 700 grams of
 25X1 bread, frozen potatoes, watery soup with buckwheat, 20 grams of makhorka
 (tobacco), and 15 grams of sugar. [REDACTED]



- 25X1 1. [REDACTED] Comment. There are at least three populated places in the
 25X1 USSR named Chkalov [REDACTED] one is
 25X1 at N 40-56, E 44-39; another is at N 51-45, E 55-06; and a third is at
 25X1 N 40-12, E 69-50. It cannot be definitely be determined which Chkalov
 [REDACTED] but possibly it is the one at N 51-45, E 55-06
 since it is the most prominent of the three places and most of the other
 train stops were at fairly prominent towns.
- 25X1 2. [REDACTED] Comment. These train stops may not be given in their correct
 25X1 chronological order. In taking the route described in the report the
 25X1 train would normally go to Derbent before Makhachkala and to Tashkent
 before Dzhambul. Chkalov may also be out of its proper chronological
 order, but that is dependent upon which of the three places named Chkalov
 [REDACTED]
- 25X1 3. [REDACTED] Comment. The abbreviation stands for Upravleniye Voenno-
robovo stroitelstva (Directorate of Military Field Construction).

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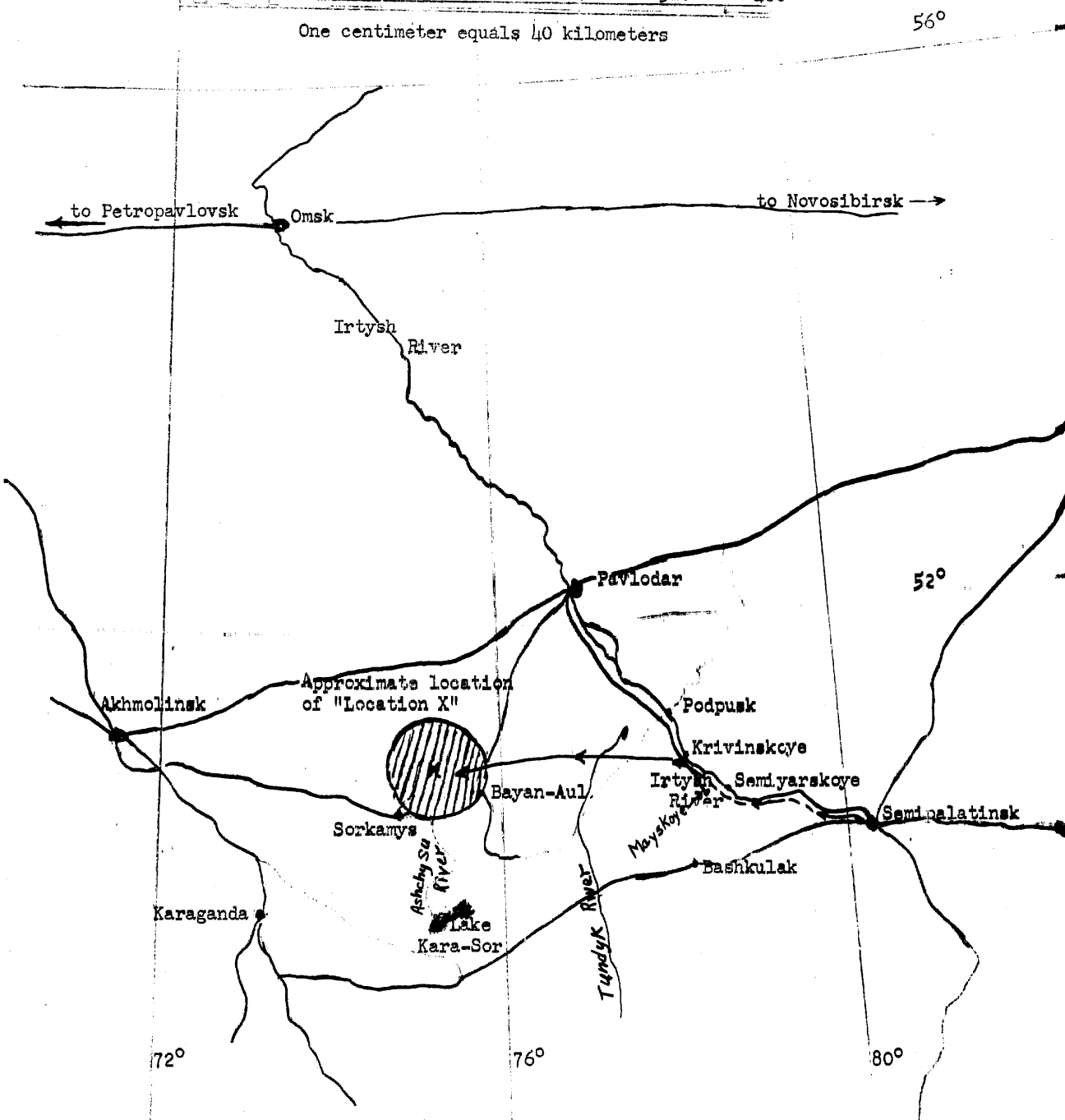
Location Map of "Location X"

The sketch of this area was taken from a copy of the Soviet map entitled,
Soyuz Sovetskikh Sotsialisticheskikh Respublik, scale 1:4,000,000.
 Compiled in 1945

80 km 0 80 160 240 320 400

One centimeter equals 40 kilometers

56°



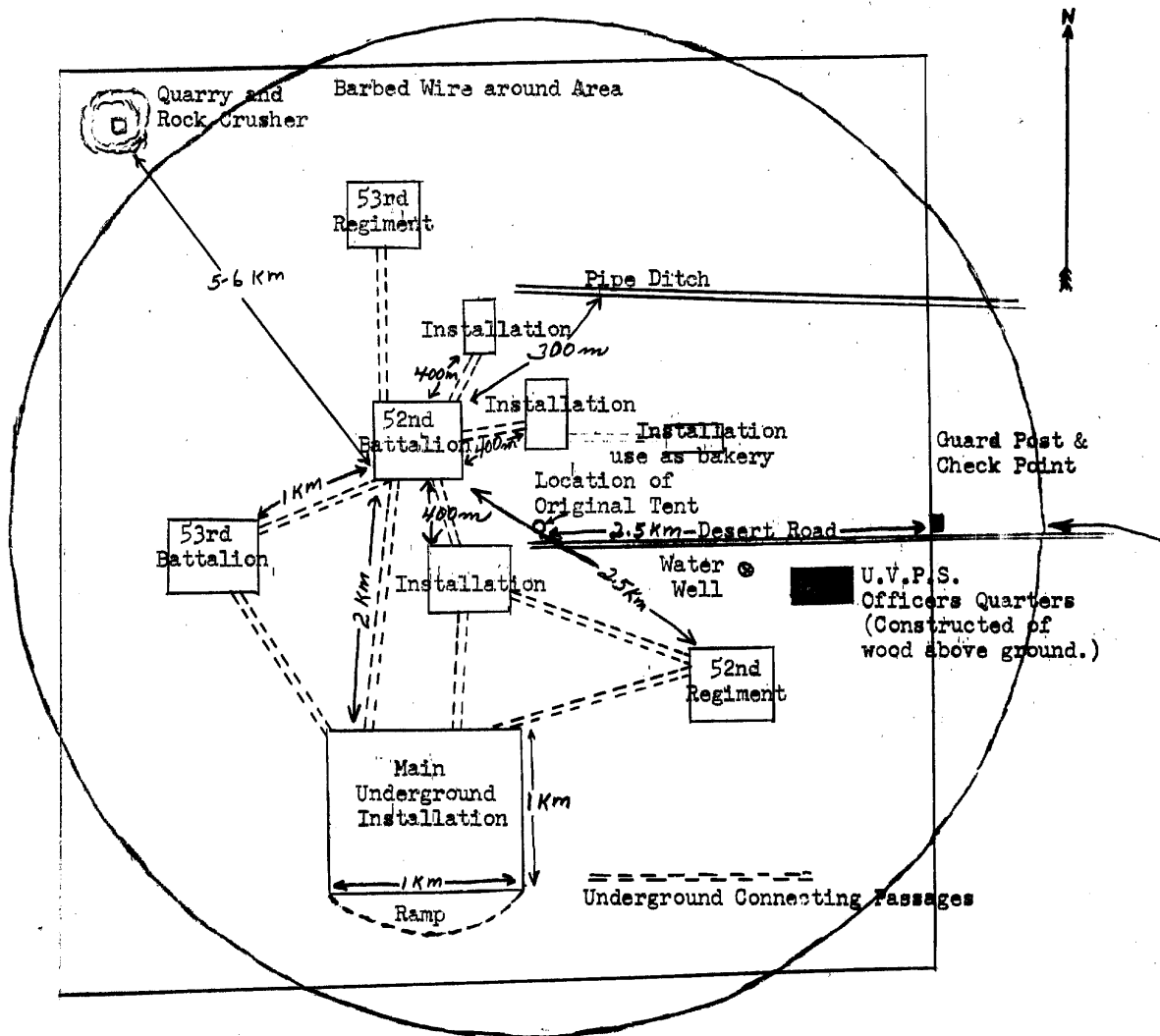
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This is an enlarged sketch of "Location X" showing its surface and underground installations with their connecting passages. All distances and measurements are approximate and consequently unreliable. Underground installations having unit numbers were temporarily occupied by troops during the construction period only and are not to be considered as permanent unit living quarters.



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